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LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY.

From Robert Treat Paine.

The following letter was received too late for the last ADVOCATE and is now printed because it contains facts and opinions which our readers will be glad to see.

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND, July 21, 1891.

REV. R. B. HOWARD, SEC'Y A. P. S.

Dear Sir — I received and read your letter of July 7th with much pleasure. I have signed and enclose the petition to Congress.

So many engagements have been made for September and October in Boston that I cannot stay away long enough to be present at the meeting in Rome in November.

The oration of Josiah Quincy is grand — a forcible grouping of the forces working in favor of civilization and peace. Such a gathering of them all into ordered array increases their power and influence and may well add confidence to the men who are working for Peace when they thus clearly see that the great movements of our times favor their cause.

I tried to see our U. S. Minister at Berne, Hon. John M. Washburn, an old friend of mine, to congratulate him on the treaty of arbitration between Switzerland and the United States and which I think he must have had a share in achieving. I have also written to him for any suggestions he may be able to offer on the same subject for my use in London, when I shall try to see what progress has been made if any in the direction of a similar treaty between the United States and Great Britain. I can imagine no greater step forward than such a treaty between these countries.

I have been reflecting on what obstacles exist to overcome, and I am not able to state to myself any reasons which can operate in favor of a declaration by England to enter such a treaty with the United States.

On the other hand the reasons in favor of such a treaty seem to have great weight. For nations as well as individuals prefer to have friends rather than enemies. They prefer to have friendly nations bound to them by strong and enduring bonds.

Now the entering into such solemn treaty relations between Great Britain and the United States is an announcement to the people of both lands and to the world that England and America have agreed that none of all the little or large causes of disagreement between them shall lead to war — that they shall be submitted to honorable and impartial arbitration, and so settled and that the peoples of these great countries propose to be and remain friends. Surely they will add to the sense of security and will strengthen a just confidence in peace not only through the United States but through Great Britain as well.

The solid gain to the United States is wonderful. While the great mass of our people love peace with all nations and especially with England, they are a proud and excitable people and it is not impossible that in a moment of passion, growing perhaps out of some misapprehension — as it is said the late French war with Germany did — acts might be taken in the direction of war which could not be undone. What aggravates the danger in the United States is that we have a powerful press,

ready to seize on any incidents and exaggerate them and to inflame the people — and that a certain part of our press is conducted by men, not so much moved by love of America as by hatred of England.

The power of all such influences for evil would be in large measure destroyed if both nations deliberately bind themselves by compact to arbitrate. The mouths of bad and passionate men who might seek to stir up war, must be effectually closed.

This motive in the United States in favor of such treaty agreement must have equal weight in England. Moreover as England is far more liable to be engaged in war with some European nation, it must add not a little to her security to have friendly relations with the United States put on firm and indissoluble footing.

Nor do I think I have yet expressed the full result to grow out of such a relation between Great Britain and the United States. It could not be regarded as other than a distinct recognition of a brotherhood, a kinship, a common interest in behalf of peace, which will surely bind the two countries more closely together as years go by and perhaps as occasions for arbitration of difficulties arise. May it not justly be maintained that such relations with a nation of the first rank like the United States will appreciably embrace the power and influence of Great Britain in her relations with the Powers of Europe.

I did not mean to write all this to you, my Dear Sir, but have rather allowed my thoughts to take shape with my pen. I shall value very highly any suggestions in this same direction to aid and guide me if I should be able to see our United States Minister, Mr. Lincoln, in London, or others interested in this subject.

Pray read in London *Times* of July 17 on page 14 an abstract of Gen. S. C. Andrews 4th July Oration on the Foreign Policy of the United States, an admirable paper which I think may be of use to our cause. Can you not get it from him? I remain my Dear Sir with best wishes,

Yours sincerely, ROBERT TREAT PAINE.

From Rev. S. Hopkins Emery.

TAUNTON, MASS., Sept. 27, 1891.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER HOWARD:

If it were not for an engagement made for 4 P. M., Monday next, which I do not feel at liberty to set aside, I should certainly be with you, to give our new President a hearty greeting. I have known and admired his wisdom and skill in administering charitable work these many years. As one of the Directors of the American Peace Society, will you, in my behalf, give him a most cordial hand-shake and express the hope that he may a long time preside over the Society, so dear to the sainted Beckwith, a most worthy successor of the lamented Tobey.

If I were to express an opinion, it would be that either the Secretary or President, and perhaps both, should represent the Society in the Universal Peace Congress at Rome.

Yours very sincerely,
SAM'L HOPKINS EMERY.

If at this moment the peace of Europe is in danger it is not from the "passions of peoples," but from the vanity of potentates. — *New York Tribune*.